

# **The story of Harithah and His Neighbour**

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## **Chapter 1: The Desire for the Vision of Allah**

### **The Neighbour's Illness: A Call to Faith**

**Sahib Qalyubi narrates an incident involving Harithah ibn Abi Awfa and his Christian neighbour. When the neighbour fell gravely ill with a terminal disease, Harithah visited him to offer comfort and counsel.**

**The Call to Islam:**

**Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:**

**"Embrace Islam, and I shall guarantee you Paradise. For Paradise is an incomparable place; nothing equals it. It contains maidens with large, beautiful eyes, whose qualities are such and such, and palaces, the descriptions of which are such and such."**

**In response, the Christian neighbour expressed a yearning for something even greater.**

## **The Neighbour's Aspiration:**

**Neighbour:**

**"I desire something better and more superior than this."**

## **The Promise of Divine Vision:**

**Hearing this, Harithah offered him a pledge that touched upon the ultimate reward.**

**The Supreme Offer:**

**Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:**

**"Accept Islam, and I guarantee for you the vision of the Lord in Paradise."**

**The Christian neighbour, moved by the promise of beholding the Divine, accepted Islam.**

## **The Neighbour's Acceptance:**

**Neighbour:**

**"I shall now accept Islam, for nothing is greater than the vision of Allah."**

**He embraced Islam and shortly thereafter passed away.**



## **The Dream: Confirmation of the Reward**

**Subsequently, Harithah saw him in a dream, riding a mount in Paradise. Recognising him, Harithah inquired of his state.**

**The Dream Encounter:**

**Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:**

**"Are you not that person?"**

**Neighbour:**

**"Indeed."**

**Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:**

**"What did Allah Almighty do for you?"**

**Neighbour:**

**"When my soul was taken, it was raised towards the Throne. Allah, Glorious and Exalted, said: 'You believed in Me out of longing for My vision and to meet Me; therefore, for you is My pleasure, My everlasting reward, and My vision.'"**

## **A Reflection of Gratitude:**

**Upon hearing this in the dream, Harithah expressed his gratitude for having been granted the opportunity to extend this invitation.**

## **A Prayer of Thanks:**

**Harithah ibn Abi Awfa:**

**"Thanks be to Allah for this favour, through which I was able to do you good."**